

## Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 AID-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 OIC-02

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USTS:DPARKER

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R 140035Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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MEXICO PASS USTS TAPPE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PORC, WTO

SUBJECT:SITE OF FIRST WTO ASSEMBLY

REFS: (A) GENEVA 331, (B) GENEVA 510, (C) GENEVA 779,  
(D) MEXICO 734

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED COMMUNICATION DATED JANUARY 24  
FROM WTO PROVISIONAL SECRETARY GENERAL LONATI ASKING U.S.  
TO CHOOSE BETWEEN SPAIN AND MEXICO AS SITE FOR FIRST ASSEM-  
BLY. LETTER STATES THAT "IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT  
PROVISIONS OF THE STATUTES THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD HAVE  
BEEN HELD IN GENEVA" BUT LAYS THIS CONSIDERATION ASIDE WITH  
EXPLANATION, NOT SURPRISINGLY, THE SWISS GOVERNMENT IS NOT  
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PREPARED TO SHOULDER ENTIRE BURDEN OF HOUSING, STAFFING, AND

FUNDING MEETING. LETTER PROVIDES NO INFORMATION, IF ANY, ON STEPS LONATI TOOK TO REACH ACCOMMODATION WITH GOS TO MEET THIS STATUTORY PROVISION.

2. U.S. DOES NOT REPEAT NOT PLAN TO RESPOND TO LONATI LETTER. AS PROSPECTIVE WTO MEMBER, WE HAVE CONSULTED WITH HIM REPEATEDLY AND IN THESE CONSULTATIONS WE HAVE STRESSED REPEATEDLY IMPORTANCE U.S. ATTACHES TO HAVING INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS APPLY THEIR RULES STRICTLY, AND HAVE EXPLAINED IN CANDID WAY REASONS WHY U.S. INTERESTS REQUIRE THIS IN POTENTIALLY POLITICIZED FORA TODAY. FURTHER, USG

HAS NOT YET ACTED TO MAKE U.S. ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN WTO UNDER ARTICLE 42, AND WE DO NOT FEEL U.S. IS ELIGIBLE, THEREFORE, TO ENGAGE IN CHOICE LONATI POSES. IF U.S. WERE ELIGIBLE, WE WOULD DECLINE NEVERTHELESS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO SITES NEITHER OF WHICH CORRESPONDS WITH PROVISION OF STATUTES.

3. IF ASKED BY LONATI OR OTHERS, MISSION MAY CONVEY FOREGOING AS U.S. REACTION TO CHOICE LONATI POSES, AND MAY STATE FURTHER WE REGRET PASSIVE, TARDY APPROACH TAKEN TO IMPLEMENTING PROVISION OF WTO STATUTES WITH RESPECT TO SITE OF FIRST ASSEMBLY. MISSION MAY FURTHER STATE, AS THIS WAS FIRST AND BY NO MEANS MOST CHALLENGING TEST OF ABILITY OF NEW ORGANIZATION TO FOLLOW ITS OWN RULES, U.S. IS MORE SKEPTICAL THAN BEFORE ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR WTO AND CONTINUES TO RESERVE POSITION ON WHETHER U.S. WILL DECIDE FORMALLY TO JOIN.

4. EXCEPT AS ELABORATED IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS OR ON IF ASKED BASIS, WE DO NOT WISH TO TRY TO INFLUENCE DECISIONS OF OTHERS ON WHETHER OR HOW TO RESPOND TO LONATI LETTER, AND MISSION SHOULD NOT INITIATE DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT WHILE POLLING OF MEMBERSHIP IS BEING CONDUCTED.

5. FOR BERN: REQUEST EMBASSY INFORM SWISS POLITICAL DEPARTMENT OF U.S. POSTURE ON THIS QUESTION. WE BELIEVE MUHEIM IS OFFICIAL IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED WITH PROBLEM.

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6. FOR MEXICO: INTENSE COMPETITION EXISTS BETWEEN SPAIN AND MEXICO TO HOST FIRST ASSEMBLY, AND MOTIVATION IN EACH CASE IS STRONG DESIRE TO BECOME SEAT OF PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS. (PARA 1, REF B, IS INACCURATE ON THIS POINT. SPAIN ARDENTLY SEEKS HEADQUARTERS.) AS RESPONSES TO POLL LIKELY TO BE REGARDED AS INDICATIVE VOTE ON HEADQUARTERS SITE QUESTION, U.S. HAS FURTHER REASON TO ISOLATE ITSELF FROM COMPETITION OVER ASSEMBLY SITE. OVERRIDING CONSID-

ERATION, HOWEVER, IS OUR CONCERN ABOUT WARPING WTO RULES  
AND PRECEDENT THIS LIKELY TO SET.

7. FOR MADRID: DEPARTMENT IN RECEIPT OF SECOND NOTE FROM  
SPANISH EMBASSY URGING SUPPORT FOR MADRID AS HEADQUARTERS  
SITE. NOTE AFFIRMS (INACCURATELY WE BELIEVE) THAT GREAT  
MAJORITY OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES PROMISED THEIR  
SUPPORT. WE PLAN SIMPLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NOTE. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

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